

Miller, Corinne (DHHS)

From: Miller, Corinne (DCH)
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 1:16 PM
To: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Fiedler, Jay (DCH)
Cc: Dykema, Linda D. (DCH)
Subject: FW: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap
Attachments: Flint Testing and EBLs_2.xlsx

Wes - per the EPA request to you, the attachment contains two graphics on childhood blood lead testing in Flint.

Jay - this information likely will be shared with the local health department, if it hasn't been already (there is an MDHHS childhood lead poisoning health educator in the Flint-area), because the MDHHS toxicologists, MDEQ and the county health department spoke last week about the development of standard messaging related to lead in drinking water.

-----Original Message-----

From: Peeler, Nancy (DCH)
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 2:57 PM
To: Anderson, Paula (DCH); Miller, Corinne (DCH); Travis, Rashmi (DCH); Moran, Susan (DCH); Grijalva, Nancy (DCH); Fink, Brenda (DCH)
Cc: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Bouters, Janese (DCH); Barr, Jacqui (DCH)
Subject: RE: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap

I apologize for the delay in responding more specifically to this assignment, it took some time to review our Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program data to see if it might contribute to the understanding of the situation in Flint with their water supply. Here is what we found:

We looked at lead testing results for May 2014-April 2015, which is the 12 month time frame just after Flint started drawing their water from the river (water source changed in April 2014). We compared lead testing rates and lead testing results to the same time frame for the previous 3 years, to see if there were any patterns that suggested that there were increased rates of lead poisoning after the water supply was switched. Per the attached charts –

- Lead testing rates remained about the same from year to year (chart on the right).
- There was a spike in elevated blood lead tests from July-September 2014 (chart on the left, gold line).
- However that pattern was not terribly different from what we saw in the previous three years, especially in 2011-2012 (we are working with our Epidemiologist to statistically verify any significant differences).
- We commonly see a 'seasonal effect' with lead, related to people opening and closing windows more often in the summer, which disturbs old deteriorating paint on the windows, sills and sashes. Window fans frequently blow and spread the lead dust from the deteriorating paint to other parts of the room/house. We suspect that the summer data spike may be related to this effect.
- If the home water supply lines and/or river water were contributing to elevated blood lead tests, we expected that the increased rates would extend beyond the summer, but they drop quite a bit from September to October, stayed low over the winter, and are just starting to tail up again in the spring of 2015.

So upon review, we don't believe our data demonstrates an increase in lead poisoning rates that might be attributable to the change in water source for Flint. We recognize that lead exposure via the water is only a small piece of what may be happening for families in Flint, however, we hope the information is helpful.

Nancy Peeler

-----Original Message-----

From: Anderson, Paula (DCH)
 Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:31 PM
 To: Miller, Corinne (DCH); Travis, Rashmi (DCH)
 Cc: Priem, Wesley F. (DCH); Dykema, Linda D. (DCH); Peeler, Nancy (DCH); Bouters, Janese (DCH); Barr, Jacqui (DCH)
 Subject: Director's Office Assignment -- Flint - need update asap
 Importance: High

Good afternoon,

Please see the message below received from the Director's office just before 5. If at all possible, please provide an update of what you may, or may not, know ASAP, today if at all possible. Include Nancy Grijalva and Sue Moran in the response. Thank you.

-----Original Message-----

From: Miller, Mark (DCH)
 Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 5:28 PM
 To: Anderson, Paula (DCH)
 Subject: RE: Flint - need update asap

There's an article from the metro times I located:

<http://www.metrotimes.com/Blogs/archives/2015/07/14/flint-family-finds-hazardous-waste-levels-of-lead-in-its-tap-water>

Based on this it sounds like at least one family might have had a child with elevated lead blood levels, which might or might not have come from the water. Sounds like the issue is old lead service lines, but there seems to be some difference of opinion on appropriate testing methods.

I'd send this over to Linda Dykema, Wes Priem and Nancy Peeler for their comments.

DEQ has jurisdiction over municipal water supplies, but we do have a program to follow-up on children with elevated blood lead levels, so I think it would be appropriate for the folks above to discuss the situation and recommend any action.

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Anderson, Paula (DCH)
 Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 4:51 PM
 To: Miller, Mark (DCH)
 Cc: Moran, Susan (DCH)
 Subject: FW: Flint - need update asap
 Importance: High

Nancy requested an answer TODAY. Thanks.

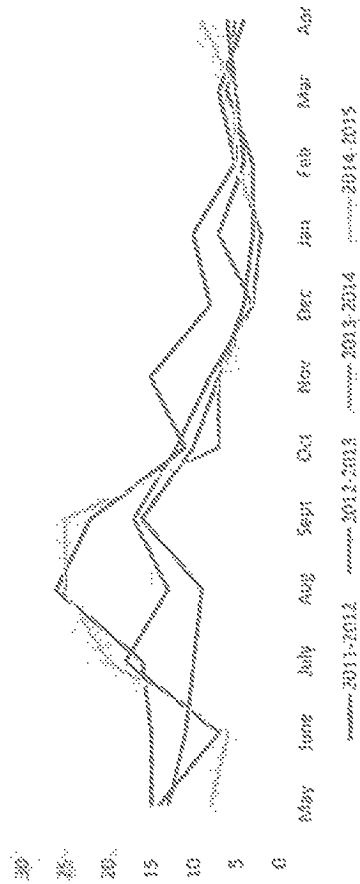
-----Original Message-----

From: Grijalva, Nancy (DCH)
 Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2015 4:47 PM

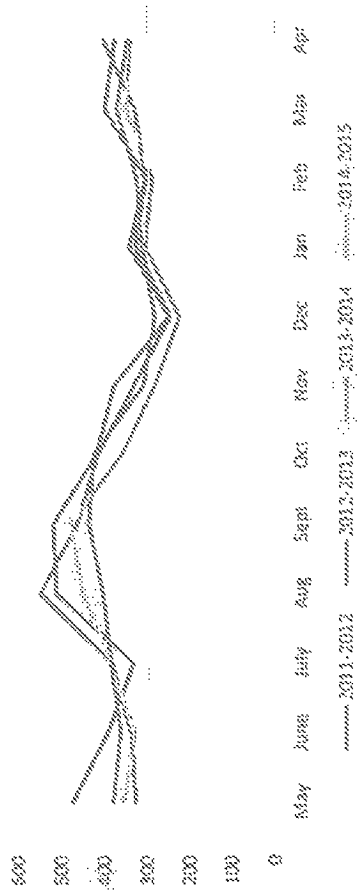
To: Moran, Susan (DCH)
Cc: Anderson, Paula (DCH)
Subject: FW: Flint - need update asap

I'm frustrated by the water issue in Flint. I really don't think people are getting the benefit of the doubt. Now they are concerned and rightfully so about the lead level studies they are receiving from the DEQ samples. Can you take a moment out of your impossible schedule to personally take a look at this? These folks are scared and worried about the health impacts and they are basically getting blown off by us (as a state we're just not sympathizing with their plight).

City of Flint, Children less than 16 years of age
with First-Time Elevated Blood Lead Levels



City of Flint, Children less than 16 years of age
Tested for Lead Poisoning



	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
2011-2012	15	15	16	26	22	11	15	8	10	5	7	4
2012-2013	14	7	18	13	17	12	8	3	7	4	5	6
2013-2014	13	11	10	9	16	10	7	4	3	3	6	5
2014-2015	8	6	20	25	25	7	7	3	2	5	5	9

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
2011-2012	474	393	332	513	570	420	379	249	343	303	399	375
2012-2013	328	338	383	550	464	417	332	246	328	303	328	402
2013-2014	380	363	385	404	438	427	310	283	313	325	371	346
2014-2015	356	329	386	452	480	361	283	224	305	287	348	339